

Ethical Climate

Unprecedented economic growth is followed by financial failures. Ethics issues destroy some high profile firms. Personal data is collected and sold openly. Hackers and data thieves plague businesses and government agencies. Acts of terror and aggression occur internationally.

Major Ethical Dilemmas

Cyber crime

Privacy issues (data mining)

Financial mismanagement

International corruption

Loss of privacy – employees vs. employers

Intellectual property theft

The role of business in promoting sustainable development

Business Ethics Developments

Business regulations mandate stronger ethical safeguards (Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Organizations; Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

Anticorruption efforts grow

Stronger emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility and Integrity Management

OECD Convention on Bribery (1997-2000)

UN Convention Against Corruption (2003); UN Global Compact adopts 10th principle against corruption (2004)

Revised Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Organizations (2004)

Increased emphasis on evaluating ethics program effectiveness

Source: "Business Ethics Timeline," [Ethics Toolkit](#), Ethics Resource Center (ERC)
(Toolkit is free from ERC)